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## **Michigan's Homeland Security Team Remains Vigilant**

**LANSING** – More than a week after the national Homeland Security Threat Level was raised to Level Orange, and with the U.S. now at war with Iraq, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's Homeland Security Team continues to monitor events around the world and the nation.

"Homeland security begins at home, and we're continuing the vital work of ensuring the safety and security of our communities and our critical infrastructures," Granholm said. "We'll go forward calling for cooperation, tolerance, and vigilance while taking every reasonable measure to protect our citizens at home."

According to Col. Tadarial J. Sturdivant, State Police and Homeland Security Director, "officials from the Emergency Management Division have met with staff at the state's nuclear power plants regarding security measures, as well as representatives from other critical infrastructure facilities."

Other measures taken this past week include:

- State officials met with officials from surrounding states and Canada to discuss critical infrastructure security, mutual aid, training, coordinated emergency planning, and intelligence sharing;
- State Police continued increased patrols around key points of entry including the Ambassador Bridge, Blue Water Bridge, and International Bridge, as well as the Mackinac Bridge;
- Thirty-six officials from state and local government participated in an emergency planning class in Lansing;
- Twenty-five local first responders received response training at the State's Lansing-based Hazardous Materials Training Center;

**(more)**

- Twenty-three emergency responders from around the state were sent to out-state terrorism-related training sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice;
- Guidance has been provided to school officials on how to respond to the changing threat levels
- State Police continued to monitor developments nationally and internationally on a 24-hour basis.

“The State Emergency Operations Center remains on stand-by as a precautionary measure, and we are having daily communications with the Governor’s Office as well as federal, state, and local agencies regarding homeland security,” stated Sturdivant.

Officials continue to stress that much of the activity taking place now is part of the vast homeland security infrastructure already in place.

“I continue to be impressed by the level of competency within our emergency preparedness and response community,” stated Granholm. “While we have no reason to expect that any of these plans will need to be implemented, it should be reassuring to our citizens to know that we are well-prepared to respond if that should ever be necessary.”

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